



STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Violent Crime Coordinating Council

c/o Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs  
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*St. Paul Police Department Asst. Chief Ken Reed, Chair*  
*Duluth Police Department Chief Gordon Ramsay, Vice-Chair*

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February 23, 2012

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Violent Crime Coordinating Council ("Council") is charged with the following duty per MN Stat. 299A.642 subd. 3 (8):

*"Subject to approval by the commissioner of public safety, adopt narrowly tailored, objective criteria and identifying characteristics for use in determining whether individuals are or may be members of gangs involved in criminal activity. The council shall review and update the criteria and characteristics adopted under this clause every two years with the objective to ensure effectiveness and relevance to the accurate identification of subjects actively involved in criminal gang activity. As part of its review process, the council shall obtain input from members of communities that are impacted by criminal gang activity. Before adopting any changes under this clause, the council must submit its recommendations to the commissioner of public safety for approval."*

The Council has held several community forums and has heard subject matter experts, law enforcement, and community members' comment on the current criteria and changes that they believe are necessary. After listening to and reviewing information from those sources, the Council established these draft criteria. Please note that each individual criteria must be established according to the definitions and instructions contained in the bullet points following the listed criteria.

We are now publishing the draft criteria for 30 days for further comment from interested persons. Those wishing to comment must do so in writing. Written comment may be addressed to the Council at the address listed above or via email to [vccc.minn@state.mn.us](mailto:vccc.minn@state.mn.us). At the conclusion of the comment period on March 25, 2012, the Council will finalize the recommended criteria and forward it on to the commissioner of public safety.

Our goal is to have fair and objective gang criteria to help law enforcement effectively address violent offenders who threaten the safety of our communities. With that goal in mind, we look forward to your comments.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Reed".

Ken Reed, Chair  
Violent Crime Coordinating Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Goldstein".

Michael Goldstein, Chair  
VCCC Data and Information Subcommittee